

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**ScholarWorks @ UTRGV**

---

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers -  
Newsletters

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers

---

7-15-1971

## Newsletter - 1971-07-15

E. De la Garza

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/kikadelagarzanews>



Part of the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters, UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact [justin.white@utrgv.edu](mailto:justin.white@utrgv.edu), [william.flores01@utrgv.edu](mailto:william.flores01@utrgv.edu).

FOR RELEASE: 15 July 1971

92-288

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- As of July 1, the U. S. Post Office Department passed out of existence and the U. S. Postal Service took over the handling of our mail. And a "catch-up" mechanization program due for completion within the next 12 months in more than 300 of the nation's post offices was announced as part of an overall postal modernization program to improve the quality of postal service.

The new mechanization program includes four major classes of equipment to speed processing of first class letters, which we use for our personal mail, and a number of other systems to handle bulk mailings and streamline other mail-handling work.

The four classes of equipment to be used principally for expediting letter mail are: (1) High-speed multi-keyboard letter-sorting machines in 63 facilities; (2) Smaller single-position letter sorters in 20 facilities; (3) Latest type mechanized "cull, face and cancel" systems for four facilities to handle much of the preliminary processing of "raw" mail more rapidly by culling out letters from other larger mailing pieces and placing letters in position for fast canceling; (4) An edger-stacker system which also speeds processing by placing letters on edge with stamps in proper position so that they can be run through high-speed electronically activated canceling "heads."

In the major mechanization category, the multi-position "LSMS" will have six, eight or 12 keyboards. As each letter flows to the keyboard, keys are punched to transport the letter to an appropriate destination bin. A 12-position keyboard can sort 43,200 letters an hour -- 3,600 at each keyboard -- to as many as 277 destinations. The multiple keyboard machines will be equipped with new type keyboards which include a ZIP Code mail translator consisting of 10 added keys. In Texas, these advanced machines will be installed at San Antonio, Houston, Austin and Dallas.

Our main hope in South Texas is that all this technology will add up to Better Service.

\* \* \*

FARM VEHICLE DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS -- Quite a few South Texans have expressed to me their concern about Department of Transportation vehicle driver qualifications regulations applying to drivers of certain vehicles controlled and operated by farmers. I have been in touch with DOT and the Department of Agriculture about these regulations, and now I have been informed that they will be revised.

The Federal Highway Administration, which comes under the Department of Transportation, found that revision was needed because of the seasonal and intermittent nature of interstate farm operations, the general short range of the majority of farm trips, and the lower incidence of exposure of farm vehicles to highway collision. All of

which is known, of course, to every farmer in our area.

The revisions exempt from the new driver qualification rules all drivers of farm vehicles under 10,000 pounds of gross vehicle weight and lower the minimum age to 18 for drivers of farmer-controlled and operated vehicles. The agency is also considering a 150-mile radius exemption for single vehicles and limited exemptions for larger and heavier multiple-unit types of farm vehicles. A general exemption is proposed for drivers of vehicles used in custom combine harvesting operations.

The regulation affecting certain farm truck drivers, previously scheduled to become effective July 1, will not become applicable until the revisions are finally ordered. The Director of the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety said adequate time will be allowed to permit farmers to become familiar with the operations. He also said it was never intended that the use of farm trucks for personal transportation by farm youth would come under these rules.

\* \* \*

JOBS FOR FIVE MILLION -- Openings by the year 1980 for five million young workers are forecast by the U S Labor Department. Lifetime earnings in these skilled crafts are said to be comparable to those in fields requiring a college degree. Most openings will be for construction craftsmen, mechanics and repairmen, foremen, metal working craftsman, and printing craftsmen. I can send, without charge, to anyone in the 15th Congressional District a booklet giving information on apprenticeship training for such jobs. Ask for "Jobs For Which Apprenticeship Training is Available."

\* \* \*

VISITORS -- Among the visitors to my office this week was the group - SPIRIT OF 76 - which included the following: Miss Betty Ann Hughes, Mrs. Eva Gorena, Mrs. Edward L. Atwood, Mr. Frank M. Castillo, Miss Mary Ann Rendon, Miss Donna Miller, Miss Christina Herrera, Miss Kathy Flanagan, Mr. Anibal Corena, Miss Patti Bledsoe, Miss Beth Fritts, Mr. Roy Gorena, Mr. Gilbert Flores, Mr. Cruz Rangel, Jr., Mr. Tim Harris, Miss Deborah Harris, Miss Edna Longoria, Miss Diana Herrera, and Mr. Edward Dearing, all from Edinburg, as well as Miss Nancy Noble of Mission, and Miss Maggie Stephens, of Corpus Christi; also Judge Ed Comez, of McAllen and Mr. Rolando V. Cantu, of Edinburg.

#####